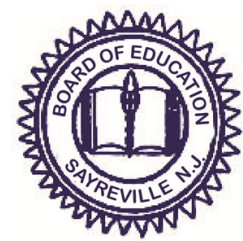




Sayreville Public Schools

Vision 2030

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Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Knaster, Assistant Superintendent

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Talk Sup Week 20 Review and Preview

January 29, 2024

Good morning Sayreville! I hope you are having a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Welcome to another edition of Talk Sup, my weekly newsletter. Please remember that we will **dismiss students early next Monday, February 6th** so that our staff can participate in professional development.

Later today, the district will officially open registration for our **free Full-Day Project Before Preschool and Kindergarten Programs**. Therefore, parents of ALL eligible (**must be 3 for preschool and 5 for kindergarten by September 30, 2024**) preschool and kindergarten students are invited to visit our website in order to register via **Oncourse Connect**, our online registration software. The link to student registration will be clearly identified on our district website homepage (www.sayrevillek12.net) as “**Student Registration**”. Once on this registration page, you can obtain pertinent information regarding the registration of all students including preschool and kindergarten students, and you can begin completing the online registration application by clicking on one of the following links noted in the **2024-2025 Project Before and Kindergarten** drop down menu: **New Student Registration Link** or **Returning Student Registration Link**.

This Tuesday evening, there will be a **Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council Meeting** and **Java with the Sup** from **6-8 pm** in the **Bombers Beyond Café**. All are invited to attend to enjoy a free cup of joe and treat with me while discussing any questions or concerns that you may have. The Java with the Sup scheduled to take place in the **morning** on Tuesday is **cancelled**.

If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, January 23rd, here is what you missed. Sean Burns from Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) and Ashten Poandl from the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) began the meeting by providing their respective Student Council Representative to the Board of Education Reports. Next, Mrs. Bloom expressed her opening remarks, as did Mrs. Napolitano, who also shared a few district highlights. During the presentation portion of the

meeting, the Board resumed publicly reviewing and discussing the 2024-25 School District Budget with the following budget presentations: Individual Schools (**elementary schools, middle school, high school, preschool**) and **Curriculum and Instruction**. The district also presented **the 2023-24 Cycle 1 School Safety Data** and a **synopsis of the 2022-23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Audit Report**. To see each presentations, click on them. To see all the information pertaining to the development of the 2024-25 School District Budget, click **here**.



The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent’s Report onto the Board Agenda and approved them all. To see the Agenda, click **here**. To see the Agenda Addendum, click **here**. To see all

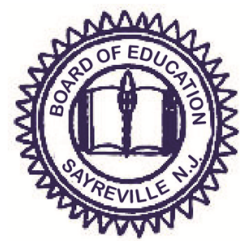
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attachments, click [here](#). To view the video of the meeting, click [here](#). Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the BOE accepted the very generous donation from Dupont valued at approximately \$3,000 to provide two teachers, Angela DiPaolo and Ashley Taylor, with registration fees, airfare, and hotel expenses to travel to the NSTA Science Teachers Convention on March 20, 2024 through March 23, 2024, in Denver, CO. It also accepted a grant from Friends of Acadia in the amount of \$5,000 for the creation of an outdoor classroom at the Harry S. Truman Elementary School. In addition, the Board approved the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Auditor's Management Report for the 2022-2023 school year as prepared by Suplee, Clooney & Company, which includes a recommendation that appropriate action be taken to ensure that net cash resources of the Food Service Account do not exceed three (3) months average expenditures. Likewise, the Board of Education approved the Corrective Action Plan for the 2022-2023 school year for Audit Recommendation 2023-001, which states that appropriate action be taken to ensure that net cash resources of the Food Service Account do not exceed three (3) months average expenditures, as submitted by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved the participation of thirteen Sayreville War Memorial High School students and twenty-seven Sayreville Middle School in the Arts High School Program 2024. This program will meet once a week at Middlesex College. Tuition is \$775 per student for grades 9-12 and \$765 for grades 6-8 for a total expense of \$31,495.00. Students will participate in classes in Prose & Poetry, Contemporary Modern Dance, Visual Arts Anime/Manga Drawing, Visual Arts Drawing & Painting, Vocal Broadway, and Acting I. In addition, it approved the extension of the 2nd Marking Period for students in grades 6-12 to January 31, 2024 because of the recent hazardous weather school closings. On the Governance portion of the agenda, the Board of Education approved revisions to BOE Policy P 8454 Management of Pediculosis for a first reading. Click [here](#) to read it.

On the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2023-24 school year. Likewise, the Board approved the transfer of non-certificated staff for the 2023-24 school year.

During the Open Public Comment portion of the meeting, a parent and several students advocated for the rehiring of the head football coach at the high school. In addition, a resident asked the Board to not reconsider constructing the proposed transportation complex on the Selover School property. Lastly a resident asked several question about the recent lawsuit involving the construction of the transportation complex filed by the district against the Borough.

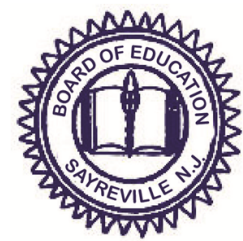
During the Board Discussion portion of the meeting, Mr. Smith reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Mrs. Pieloch for the last Personnel Committee Meeting. Mrs. Bloom also shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association.



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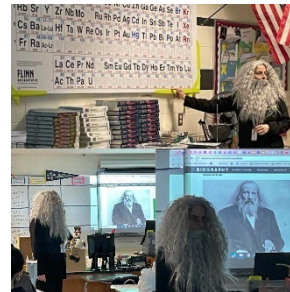
The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, February 6th at 6:30 pm in the SUES Board Room.** During this meeting, the Board will resume publicly reviewing and discussing the 2023-24 School District Budget with the following budget presentations: Special Education and Athletics. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the district website on **February 2nd**. A complete copy of the **January 23rd Business Meeting** minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of the website once they are approved by the BOE during the next BOE Meeting on **February 6, 2024.**



Thanks to our magnificent instructional staff, our students had a very productive and fun week of learning last week. In Project Before at the Selover School, our preschoolers had a blast playing in their Dunkin' creative play centers. At Garden Friends, preschoolers used some pizza dough from their very own pizzeria. They played remember and replicate, and used their science eyes as they made predictions as to what the pizza dough felt like. Sticky, slimy and stretchy were just some words they used.



At the high school, last Thursday, during all of the US History 2 classes, the school counselors led College and Career Planning presentations to all our juniors. Post-secondary options, the college application process, goal setting, and a multitude of other



steps for future planning were shared. Later that evening, the school counselors and Ms. Sicola, Director of School Counseling presented the program for the junior parents and guardians and offered a question-and-answer period to assist them in supporting their students as they prepare for their senior year and their life after high school. In addition, Ms. Goldstein's alter ego, Dmitri Mendeleev, stopped by her Chemistry



classes to discuss his life and his development of the modern Periodic Table. Likewise, students in Ms. DiPaolo's Human Anatomy class dissected pig fetuses to compare and analyze human body parts. Additionally, a group of students gathered in the library for a video chat with a recent Oxford University graduate. They learned about the admissions process as well as the general workings of the British collegiate system. It was a very informative conversation.

Furthermore, students in the Studio Art class proudly displayed their half year portfolios.



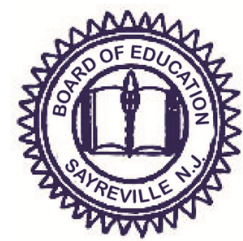
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At the upper elementary school, the 5th Grade Band and 4th and 5th Grades Chorus



performed magnificently during their Winter Concert. Students and staff also had



a great time showing their school spirit during Dynamic Duo Day.

At the middle school, students in Mr. Howard's class learned about the theory of Pangea, where they put the continents of the world together like pieces in a puzzle. In



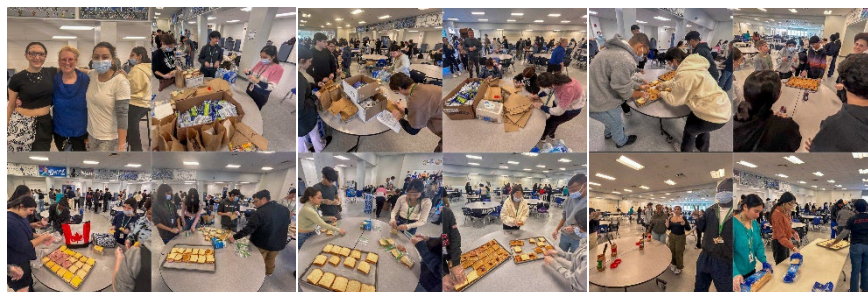
addition, students in the Unified Club decorated sleeves for the Bombers Beyond Café. At the Eisenhower School, staff, students, and their families had a blast during



the PTO STEM Family Fun Night. In addition, after learning this week about how q and u always come together to spell words, students in Ms. Boehm's and Ms. Wittman's kindergarten class held a wedding for the letter partners.



Lastly, students, staff, and community members packed the Bombers Beyond Café for the first ever Open Mic Night.



This past week, our students, staff, alumni, and community members continued to impress us with their remarkable accomplishments. We commend and thank the SWMHS LEO Club, which made over 1,000 lunches that included sandwiches (500+ ham & cheese and 500+ peanut

butter and jelly), a snack, and a water bottle for Sayreville and Perth Amboy families in need. We also commend and thank the Sayreville Education Association (SEA) Pride Committee, BJ's of Old Bridge, the Sayreville Lions Club and Tasty Kake for their donations of food and/or money. Students from the following Clubs also participated: Sayreville Leo, DECA, FBLA, HOSA, ROTC, NHS and the Good Deeds Club.

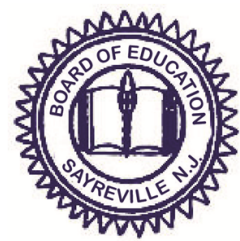
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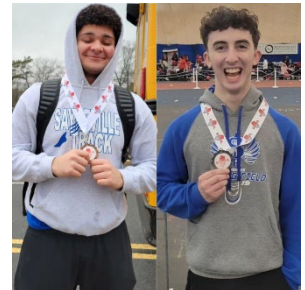


We also congratulate Tor Etzold for being selected as the Truman School Music Teacher for the Day. He helped to prepare the music lessons by choosing the songs, games, books, instruments, and helping students with all activities. Bomber Nation salutes all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in an impeccable manner. They Rock!



In athletics, the SWMHS Boys Basketball Team improved its season record to 12-7 after defeating New Brunswick High School (HS) last week. Likewise, the SWMHS Wrestling Team improved its record to 10-7 with a match win over Metuchen HS. The SWMHS Girls Swim Team defeated Old Bridge HS to improve its season record to 4-3. Both the Girls and Boys Swim Teams also performed well at the Greater Middlesex Conference

(GMC) Swimming Meet. Individually, Kailyn Koonce placed 7th and medaled in the 50 Meter Freestyle Race and placed 9th in the 100 Meter Breaststroke Race. Caroline Astarita placed 10th in the 200 Meter Freestyle Race. Additionally, Morgan Koonce, Olivia Charmello, Caroline Astarita, and Kailyn Koonce placed 4th and broke the 200 Freestyle Relay Race school record from 2011 with a time of 1:50.07. Michael Wiszenko placed 3rd in the boys 200 Meter Individual Medley Race and 5th in the boys 500 Meter Freestyle. Likewise, at the South Jersey Track and Field Coaches Association Meet, Xavian Pena placed 3rd in the Shot Put while William Lewis placed 3rd in the Pole Vault. Finally, the SWMHS Girls Bowling Team earned their third victory of the season with a match win over East Brunswick HS. Win or lose, all our amazing student athletes continued to compete fiercely and demonstrate the teamwork and sportsmanship that makes us all proud to be Bombers. Thus, we thank them and their coaches for their hard work, dedication, and the way they represent SWMHS and our community. Please remember that you can see all athletic team schedules by visiting the Athletics page of our website or by clicking [here](#).



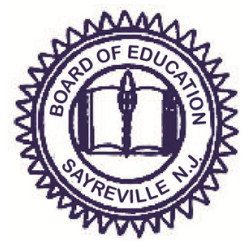
As per the [2023-24 School District Calendar](#), which you can view by clicking on it, the **2nd Marking Period** for students in **grades 6-12** will end tomorrow, **January 31st**. **Report Cards** for those students will be issued and viewable in Oncourse Connect on **February 6th**. Likewise, **2nd Trimester Progress Reports** for students in **grades K-5** will be issued and viewable in Oncourse Connect tomorrow, **January 30th**. In addition, please note that there will be **BOE Business Meetings** on **February 6th** and **20th**. Please also remember that we will **dismiss students early** on **February 5th** so that our staff can participate in professional development, and that **our schools will be closed** on **February 19th** in observance of Presidents' Day.

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If you or you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click [here](#) and submit an inquiry with **School Revenue Partners**. Naturally, we will continue to Bomber Blast activity information and community service announcements for our schools and the greater community at no cost. Likewise, if you would like to advertise on our **buses**, click [here](#).

Have a wonderful week, blessed and most joyous holidays, and relaxing and enjoyable winter recess!

Dr. Labbe